French-speaking Switzerland, or Suisse Romande, occupies the western third of the country, comprising the shores of **Lake Geneva** (Lac Léman) and the hills and lakes to the north. [**Geneva**](file:///C:\destinations\europe\switzerland\lake-geneva\geneva\), at the southwestern tip of the lake, was once a haven for freethinkers from cross Europe; now it’s a city of diplomats and big business, but you’ll see its more relaxed side by the lake on a warm day. Halfway around the lake, [**Lausanne**](https://www.roughguides.com/destinations/europe/switzerland/lake-geneva/lausanne/) is full of young people; it’s a cultured, energetic town acclaimed as the skateboarding capital of Europe. Further east is the stunning medieval [**Château de Chillon**](https://www.roughguides.com/destinations/europe/switzerland/lake-geneva/chateau-de-chillon/), which drew Byron and the Romantic poets. [**Mont Blanc**](https://www.roughguides.com/destinations/europe/france/the-alps-and-franche-comte/mont-blanc/), Western Europe’s highest mountain (4807m), is visible from Geneva, while **Lausanne** has breathtaking views across the water to the French Alps. On a sunny day, the train ride around the beautiful northern shore is memorably scenic, but the excellent boat service brings home the full grandeur of the setting.